

Potential Mission to the United States – Premier Ford and Minister Fedeli

Potential Timing: three/four days at the end of March
Potential Locations: Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Washington, DC

Objectives

1. Advocate for Ontario's trade and economic interests including:
 - Advocate for continued strengthening of the Ontario/state trade relationship
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - Highlight our integrated auto sector
2. [REDACTED]
3. Reassure American partners and stakeholders of the reliability of Ontario as a trade partner and commitment to supply chain stability
 - Highlight effective action taken to ensure continued stability of the border
 - Showcase Ontario's commitment to the Great Lakes region including reaffirming Ontario's commitment to the protection of the Great Lakes

Considerations

- Minister Fedeli may join the Premier. There could be joint as well as separate programming to maximize the impact of the mission. [tbc in consultation with MEDJCT]
- Role of Agents General, particularly the Agent General in Chicago
- Potential role of members of the Premier's Council on U.S. Trade and Industry Competitiveness (the Premier's Council could also be consulted on potential programming for Premier Ford, Minister Fedeli, and others)
- [REDACTED]
- COVID situation in target states and in Ontario, and applicable travel advisories and state mandates at the time of travel
- Status of the Emergencies Act in Canada: due to expire on March 15, unless extended

Notable events

Commented [CH(4): May want to have responsive points prepared for Premier / Minister in the event questions are raised regarding impact of the temporary blockade of the Ambassador Bridge.

IRP has conducted a scan of any notable events during this timeframe in these states and has not identified anything at this time.

This includes industry events (Detroit Auto Show in September); state association events (Council of State Governments does not have an event until July); tradeshow and summits (the Indiana Global Economic Summit takes place in May); and local sporting events involving Toronto teams (e.g. Maple Leafs, Raptors, and Blue Jays).

There are no events related to Great Lakes organizations at the time of this proposed mission (including the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers, the Great Lakes Commission, and the Council of the Great Lakes Region).

Draft Program	
Day/Location	Potential Programming
Day 1: Ohio March XX	- Roundtable with Ohio business leaders - MEDJCT, AG Provost to provide suggestions
Day 2: Indiana March XX	- Roundtable with Indiana business leaders - MEDJCT, AG Provost to provide suggestions
Day 3: Michigan March XX	- Tour of auto factory with Governor Whitmer - Opportunity for participation of [Jerry Dias], Flavio Volpe - Roundtable with Michigan business leaders - MEDJCT, AG Provost to provide suggestions
Day 4: Washington, D.C. March XX	- Potential meetings with Katherine Tai, U.S. Trade Representative; Gina Raimondo, U.S. Secretary of Commerce; and Pete Buttigieg, U.S. Secretary of Transportation; or designates - Meetings with Canadian Ambassador to the United States, Kirsten Hillman - Through the Canadian American Business Council (CABC), a fireside chat and media availability - Opportunity for participation of Scotty Greenwood, CEO of the CABC and member of PCUSTIC (potential to moderate discussion?)

Current State Pandemic Mandates

Ohio: No capacity limits, a mask mandate for indoor spaces in Columbus (where the Premier could potentially meet with Governor DeWine)
Indiana: No capacity limits or mask mandates
Michigan: No capacity limits or mask mandates
Washington: No capacity limits; a mask mandate for public indoor spaces

Canadian Travel Advisory

As of February 16, 2022, the Government of Canada recommends that citizens avoid all non-essential travel outside Canada due to the risk of the Omicron variant that causes COVID-19.

Returning travelers (land and air) are required to produce a negative result on a Rapid Antigen Test done no more than 24 hours before re-entering Canada or a PCR test done no more than 72 hours before re-entering Canada.